

From: Dave Jacobs
To: Microsoft ATR
Date: 1/11/02 4:03am
Subject: Microsoft Settlement

Greetings:

In reading over the final settlement with Microsoft, maybe I am not seeing something, but what I see allows for something that I find happening to allow Microsoft to continue with an almost akin to an absolute control of the internet.

Ever since Microsoft lost their battle in Court, they have been making some changes which tend to further their path to discouraging people enough that they gain more control and thereby a monopoly by a type of intimidation. I have watched them in their influence over the net by any users who are not using their products when on the web. An example of this is that every site they own or control or every company or OEM with which they have some previous agreement can't be simply accessed by one who is not using their product. I see nothing in the final judgement which prohibits them from intimidation by making it almost impossible for anyone who does not use their IE to easily access mail or sites. Since there is not and since they have acquired more online, they have now been able to exercise much more in the way of 'convincing' people to use only them. This effectively shuts out most of the stipulations of the final judgement. The giving up of fighting with a system which is so restrictive and demanding without violating any of the provisions of the judgement will merely cause the individuals to chose to not fight it and add much more to a total control monopoly on the internet.

One only has to understand that the Microsoft Windows OS is the one in use in the majority of all OS systems used in the world to realize that the internet is being used to force a control so that a true free choice is not given to the individual users. The

complaints which caused this suit were not from individual users. They were from competitors in the business. No where is the issue addressed which prevents Microsoft from using the widespread use of their OS along with their own internet sites and agreements with others to cause considerable pressure to continue with a forced monopoly. With what I see in the judgement, even more a path is allowed for them to continue to accomplish an almost total internet controlled monopoly with their OS and products.

The users of an Operating System do not always run out and pay such an expense just to buy new systems when they are introduced. Many will continue to use what they have until they find a real need due to some obsolescence. With all the Windows programs since Windows 95 to date, there is no way to avoid the requirement of wasting space on the system by keeping the Microsoft Internet Explorer (IE). It must be in the system and will always be doing something itself and including popping up at times when you are not wanting to use it. In any site owned, controlled or where there exists an agreement for the use of their products, a user of any other system or browser has difficulty in accessing the site. In mail that is sent which has been set up by Microsoft for many companies, that mail may not even open in any browser other than IE. I have had many such examples here recently which did not exist before your suit. This would tend to indicate a path Microsoft has found to allow for a continuation of what the suit was charging, only from a different perspective; the use.

Where I prefer the Windows system, I do not prefer all that Microsoft has for use and see no need to have it waste space on my hard drive when I have other products which I would chose to use. I do not think that Microsoft should be allowed to have the type of control worldwide they have over the internet to force

this situation and I do not think that they should be allowed to provide their IE as a component of the Windows OS. This should be kept out of the system and a user then has the free choice of which they wish to download or purchase and use. Any online company or site, network or ISP should be additionally required to fully support any of the available browser systems available to the individual user by the choice of the user.

Take a look back at how the Windows sysetem was prior to Windows 95. You will find a system which did allow free choice. The IE could be used or eliminated at the discretion of the user. Now, the Windows Operating System is so embedded with instructions and directions so as to disallow any free choice in any product which Microsoft owns or controls. You must keep all of theirs and then have to fight with sites and anything which on the web is under the direction, control or ownership of Microsoft if you are not using their products.

It has become common now for people to even state that if you aren't using IE or Microsoft that you aren't going to be able to enter the site, gain access to some mail or view anything produced on the internet by Microsoft. This is quite a bad sign.

I know that is is rather a far fetched idea, but I feel the urge to remind all of a movie that was shown on television a couple years back and can now be found in video stores. It is fiction. It isn't real. But, I see a tremendous similarity to it and what I see happening now. A bit more advanced and overboard situation in the movie, but is it? "Net Force" Watch it and you be the judge.

Sincerely,
Dave Jacobs

